

An Aggregate of Only 65,744 Shares of Stock Was Sold Yesterday.

Effect of Uncertainty Concerning the Platforms of Political Parties.

BEARS AFFRONT TO MAKE DEALS.

Bulls Wary, Too, and Not Inclined to Take Aggressive Steps—Activity Only in Sugar, General Electric and Burlington.

Wall Street, Wednesday, May 27. Speculation has temporarily fallen to the lowest ebb. The aggregate sales of stocks today were only 65,744 shares, while the total sales of bonds amounted to \$721,000. In such circumstances the market naturally sagged lower.

In view of the depressing conditions of uncertainty over the political platforms and candidates, and the low prices of commodities, it is surprising that the undertone of the market should be so steady. Speculators apparently believe that sudden developments are more likely to favor an upward than a downward movement. The worst factors are all on the surface and can be easily calculated upon. For this reason the bears fear to sell stocks, while the bulls do not care to take any aggressive steps until the uncertainties existing in the situation are cleared away. The engagements of gold for shipment to-morrow were lighter than was anticipated, being only \$1,250,000, but only a momentary rally of eighths resulted from this fact.

The only stocks in which there were movements worth noting were Sugar, General Electric and Burlington. Sugar lost a point after an early advance of 1/4 per cent, closing 1/2 per cent lower. There was heavy buying at the low prices, while the decline was established by light sales, denoting manipulation. Lower prices, ostensibly for the purpose of securing cheap stock, General Electric broke 1/4 per cent on the report of the incorporation of an opposition company. On a denial of the report only 1/4 per cent of the loss was recovered. The reported rival is to have \$5,000,000 capital, and it is not probable that such a company could give the General Electric Company, with its myriad of patents and large capital, a moment's worry. Burlington declined 1/4 per cent on sales based on the fact that \$747,000 additional 7 per cent bonds would be listed by the Governing Committee of the Stock Exchange in the afternoon.

The coincidence of the payment of an increased dividend and a fresh issue of bonds was too striking to overlook. The Burlington has now got to the end of the 7 per cent bonds available for sale, and will have to reduce its dividend if it cannot be earned in the remaining quarters of the year. The \$1,076,000 7 per cent bonds still remaining in the treasury must be held to retire outstanding Ottawa, Oswego and Fox River Valley 8 per cent bonds, maturing July 1, 1900.

Following are the sales of stocks and range of prices:

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|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 100 Am. Sugar Ref. Co. | 104 1/2 | 104 1/2 | 104 1/2 |
| 100 Am. Tobacco Co. | 104 1/2 | 104 1/2 | 104 1/2 |
| 100 Am. Cotton Oil Co. | 104 1/2 | 104 1/2 | 104 1/2 |
| 100 Am. Oil Co. | 104 1/2 | 104 1/2 | 104 1/2 |
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